

Rufous Tree-Creeper, *Climacteris rufa*, on the Swan Coastal Plain.—Seldom has the Rufous Tree-Creeper been recorded from the Swan Coastal Plain, and there are no records since those of W. B. Alexander (*Emu*, 20: 149; 47: 282) near Perth between 1912 and 1920. The only specimens were collected at Wanneroo on August 1907 and now in the Western Australian Museum. Serventy (*Emu*, 47: 282) believed that it had quite disappeared from the coastal plain, though still resident in the Darling Range (plentiful in some parts, personal observation). I was surprised to observe two pairs in Tuart-Jarraah Woodland with *Banksia* at Baleatta, a Perth suburb. The precise locality was between Delawney and Rickman Streets on the eastern side of Takari Primary School. The birds were seen entering hollows in the Tuarts. Nesting was not established. They were sighted several times between October 23 and December 10, 1974.

—NICHOLAS KOLICHIS, Osborne Park.

Rockhopper Penguin, *Endyptes chrysocome*, at Two People's Bay.—During a recent holiday, a visit was made to the Two People's Bay Nature Reserve on August 30, 1977. In the small cove east of the picnic area Dr. J. Hitchcock and I identified an immature Rockhopper Penguin which had been discovered by his sons. The bird was slowly swimming close inshore, rolling on its side and diving occasionally. It appeared to be in good condition except for an injured eye. The ranger at Two People's Bay, Mr. R. Sokolowski was notified of the penguin and he kindly confirmed the identification. Reference to *Handbook of Australian Seabirds* (D. Serventy, *et al.*) indicated that this bird was immature as it had pale, slightly protruding eyebrow stripes not reaching the base of the beak and lacked the adult filamentous crests. The bill was dull brown and the feet flesh coloured with black soles. The black throat and chin further suggest that this bird was probably between one and two years old.

—G. F. U. BAKER, Furnissdale.

Breeding after rain by the Australian Raven.—In "The Comparative Ecology of Australian Corvids. III Breeding Seasons" (*CSIRO Wildl. Res.*, 1973; 18: 67-90) Rowley *et al.* could find no records of the Australian Raven (*Corvus coronoides*) breeding in autumn or after rain.

On May 16 1974, I recorded a nest of *C. coronoides* 16 metres high in a Salmon Gum (*Eucalyptus salmonophloia*) at Manmanning, approximately 150 km north-east of Perth in the wheat belt of Western Australia. The bird was incubating five eggs and subsequently two fledglings left the nest. By ageing the nestlings from observations of the nest and allowing an incubation period of 20 days, the period of laying for the first egg would have been between April 25 and 30.

The long dry summer characteristic of the Western Australian wheat belt ended early in 1974 when the first substantial rain fell on March 4 (33 mm). A total of 115 mm of rain fell from March 4 to April 23. At the same time maximum temperatures remained mild but normal for that time of year, i.e. the mean maximum for April was 20.2°C. Successful breeding was also noted in two other species in the same area: the Magpie Lark (*Grallina cyanoleuca*) and the White-browed Babbler (*Pomatostomus superciliosus*).

This is the first published breeding record for *C. coronoides* at this time of year, when day length is decreasing. Rowley (*loc. cit.*) recorded nest building by *C. coronoides* near Canberra in May 1964 but the nest was not laid in. He cited also a pers. comm. record of a local egg collector's knowledge of autumn nesting.

Similar behaviour (autumn breeding after rain) is well known for *C. bennetti* in Central Australia and was recorded for *C. mellori* in central New South Wales in 1969 following a drought Rowley (*loc. cit.*). It is also recorded for both *C. bennetti* and *C. orn* for Western Australia by Carnaby (*W.A. Nat.*, 4 (7), 1954) and Robinson (*W.A. Nat.*, 4 (8), 1955).

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